

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02674 01 OF 02 101810Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 000772

R 101702Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5268
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 2674

EXDIS

DEPT FOR S/NM AND ARA; CARACAS FOR DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR;
BUENOS AIRES FOR AMBASSADOR AND DEA SAIC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SNAR, PA, BR
SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN PARAGUAYAN CONNECTION

1. SUMMARY: BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON US FOR
NARCOTICS BRIEFING. INDICATED HE MAY PROPOSE EXPANDING
HIS EMBASSY'S ROLE IN NARCOTICS MATTERS. SHOULD BRAZIL
DO SO OR OTHERWISE BECOME MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN
EFFORT TO SECURE GREATER PARAGUAYAN COOPERATION IN DRUG
MATTERS THIS COULD COMPLEMENT OUR OWN PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR FERNANDO DE ALENCAR AT HIS REQUEST
AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE EMBASSY'S RECENTLY-ARRIVED
SECURITY/INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, PAULO SERGIO NERY, CALLED
ON AMBASSADOR, DCM AND SAIC BOLDIN FOR A BRIEFING ON
THE DRUG ENVIRONMENT IN PARAGUAY AND TO DISCUSS THE
POSSIBILITY OF ALENCAR'S REQUESTING EITHER THE
ASSIGNMENT TO HIS STAFF OF A BRAZILIAN NARCOTICS ATTACHE OR
STRENGTHENING HIS EMBASSY IN SOME OTHER WAY TO DEAL
WITH THIS ISSUE.

3. AMBASSADOR ALENCAR EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02674 01 OF 02 101810Z

BEGUN TO WONDER IF HIS EMBASSY COULD OR SHOULD BE MORE

ACTIVE IN NARCOTICS MATTERS, ESPECIALLY SINCE DRUG USE IN BRAZIL SEEMS TO BE ON THE INCREASE, WITH RUMORS RIFE THAT PARAGUAY AND PROMINENT PARAGUAYAN RESIDENTS ARE PLAYING KEY ROLES. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS (POLICE) PASTOR CORONEL, HIS "PROTECTOR" GENERAL RODRIGUEZ, AND "POPOL" PERRIER AS THREE INDIVIDUALS COMMONLY ASSMED TO BE IMPLICATED. HE SAID HE WAS NOT UNDER ANY INSTRUCTIONS, BUT BEFORE MAKING ANY PROPOSALS TO ITAMARATY HE HOPED WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRIEF HIM ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PARAGUAY AND AS IT MAY AFFECT BRAZIL.

4. OUR BRIEFING WAS LIMITED TO GIVING ALENCAR THE BROAD PICTURE, WITHOUT DETAILS REGARDING OPERATIONAL MATTERS OR ANY SPECIFIC NAMES (ALTHOUGH WE CONFIRMED HAVING RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS ON THOSE WHOM ALENCAR HAD NAMED), BUT SAID WE LACKED ANY HARD EVIDENCE). WE ALSO REFERRED ALENCAR TO THE RECENT SERIES OF ARTICLES ON DRUG TRAFFICKING IN "O GLOBO" WHICH WE THOUGHT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT. WE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. MARIJUANA IS GROWN IN THE EASTERN BORDER REGIONS OF PARAGUAY, SOME FROM SEEDS PROVIDED BY BRAZILIAN DEALERS, AND IS TRUCKED IN FAIRLY LARGE VOLUMES ACROSS THE BORDER, PRIMARILY IN THE PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO REGION. THERE IS A STRONG PRESUMPTION OF OFFICIAL CONNIVANCE, ON BOTH SIDES. THE FACT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL WELL-PUBLICIZED SEIZURES BY THE NNA WHILE COMMENDABLE MAY BE INTENDED TO BE A SMOKESCREEN TO HIDE THE MORE SERIOUS TRAFFICKING IN HARDER SUBSTANCES.

B. METHAMPHETAMINE--MOSTLY "PERVITIN" MANUFACTURED IN ARGENTINA IN AMPULE (INJECTABLE) FORM--ARRIVES FROM ARGENTINA (BY ROAD, RAIL, BOAT OR AIR) IN LARGE-SCALE LOTS OF UP TO 100,000 AMPULES. SOME IS CONSUMED IN ASUNCION BY WHAT WE BELIEVE IS AN EXPANDING LOCAL MARKET, SOME IS SOLD TO INDIVIDUAL BRAZILIAN TOURISTS HERE AND IN THE BORDER TOWN OF PUERTO PRESIDENTE STROESSNER. THE BULK, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE SHIPPED IN LARGE LOTS ACROSS THE BORDER FOR EVENTUAL USE IN BRAZIL, VIA PUERTO STROESSNER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASUNCI 02674 01 OF 02 101810Z

OR PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO. THE FACT "SPEED" IS IN AMPULE FORM INDICATES TO US AN ADDICT (RATHER THAN CASUAL USER) MARKET, BOTH HERE AND IN BRAZIL. SO FAR THERE IS SOME CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF OFFICIAL CONNIVANCE: A RECENT SEIZURE OF SOME 70,000 AMPULES NEAR THE BRAZILIAN BORDER RESULTED IN SEVERAL ARRESTS IN PARAGUAY BUT THOSE ARRESTED WERE QUICKLY RELEASED.

C. COCAINE PRODUCED IN BOLIVIA IS SHIPPED THROUGH PARAGUAY TO MARKETS IN BRAZIL, THE US AND EUROPE. LARGE SCALE SEIZURES ARE PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE HERE AT PRESENT, BUT WE HOPE THAT SEIZURES ELSEWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN BRAZIL, MAY LEAD TO HARD EVIDENCE WITH WHICH TO CONFRONT THE GOP LEADERSHIP.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02674 02 OF 02 101816Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 000845

R 101702Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5269
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ASUNCION 2674

EXDIS

D. HEROIN FROM EUROPE, LIKE COCAINE, IS WARE-HOUSED IN PARAGUAY. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF INCREASED ACTIVITY OF LATE AMONG THE TRADITIONAL SMUGGLERS (E.G. CORSICANS) AND ASSUME THE TRADE IS NOW INCREASING AGAIN, AFTER THE DISRUPTION CAUSED TO IT BY THE RICORD CASE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE SO FAR.

5. THE BRAZILIANS AND WE AGREED THAT THE GOP POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS HESITANT OR UNABLE TO ACT AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WHOSE POLITICAL OR MILITARY CONNECTIONS ARE IMPECCABLE, UNLESS INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE CAN BE OBTAINED, AND THAT THIS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SINCE THE BIG OPERATORS TEND TO BE THE FINANCIERS RATHER THAN THE ACTUAL SMUGGLERS -- I.E., THEY NEVER GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY HANDLING THE MERCHANDISE. IN THIS REGARD, WE EMPHASIZED THE POTENTIAL UTILITY OF SECURING HARD EVIDENCE FROM TRAFFICKERS CAUGHT IN BRAZIL, FOR LATER PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER WHO IS ON RECORD WITH US AS BEING UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO THE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE, BUT WHO

HAS SAID HE CAN ONLY ACT ON THE BASIS OF FACTS.

6. ALENCAR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR BRIEFING AND SAID HE WOULD RAISE WITH ITAMARATY THE QUESTION OF HOW HE SHOULD PROCEED AND WHETHER BRAZIL SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN NARCOTICS ATTACHE IN ASUNCION. HE ANTICIPATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02674 02 OF 02 101816Z

THAT HE MIGHT RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTINUE THE EXCHANGE WITH US, POSSIBLY DISCUSSING SPECIFIC OPERATIONS QUESTIONS.

7. COMMENT: SHOULD THE GOB DECIDE TO ESTABLISH A NARCOTICS OFFICE IN THEIR EMBASSY, WE WOULD SEE TWO POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES: (A) TO OBTAIN INDEPENDENT INTELLIGENCE FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES IN BRAZIL AND (B) MORE IMPORTANTLY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ITS POWERFUL NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR VIEWS THE GROWING THREAT TO IT POSED BY PARAGUAY'S INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH LOCAL TRAFFICKERS. CONSIDERING BRAZIL'S GREAT INFLUENCE AND IMPORTANCE HERE WE BELIEVE THE POLITICAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT OF GOB INTEREST WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE TO STIFFEN THE GOP'S DETERMINATION TO CURB DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND COULD NICELY COMPLEMENT OUR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES FOR HAVING DEA IN GSUNCION. THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR AT ONE POINT WONDERED OUT LOUD WHETHER DUPLICATION OF EFFORT MIGHT NOT DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK NOT; AND IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD FORSEE NO EARLY INTELLIGENCE LIAISON HERE IN ASUNCION. THE MERE FACT OF BRAZILIAN PRESENCE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD WOULD BE A SIGNAL OF THE IMPORTANCE THE GOB ATTACHES TO THIS ISSUE.

8. THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BRASILIA MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO FOLLOW UP IN WASHINGTON OR IN BRASILIA ON WHAT WE GATHER AT THIS STAGE IS A PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF AMBASSADOR ALENCAR.
LANDAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASUNCIO2674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750238-1001
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750766/aaaachca.tel
Line Count: 213
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN PARAGUAYAN CONNECTION
TAGS: SNAR, PA, BR, (DE ALENCAR, FERDNANDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006